

**City of Bloomington
Telecommunications Council
Business Meeting – January 5, 2010**

**Common Council Chambers
City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.**

I. Members Present: Carl Zager, Suzann Owen, Duane Busick, Jesse Strycker, Eric Ost

II. Approval of Minutes: Duane moved that the minutes be approved. Suzann seconded the motion. Carl asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. Suzann mentioned that in November's minutes it was noted that it had been requested that the minutes be delivered in word, not in PDF because minutes cannot be altered when document is in PDF form. This month they were still delivered in PDF form. Motion was passed by all.

III. Public Comment – (*NOTE: Very difficult to hear individual in the beginning of his comments.*)

Brain Bresmer – Representative of Fifth's First Legion, Blood Thin Garrison

*This group did a presentation in November for the Kids Live Show.

* They have 47 members locally.

* 4600 members worldwide

* They get together quarterly

* They have performed at the New York Stock Exchange, Moscow Red Square, and China's Red Square.

He distributed the group's trading card to the members of the council.

IV. Reports

1. Telecom Member Reports:

Suzann - January/February is when video service providers announce their rate increases, and that typically stirs a response from the public. There is talk going on in the industry that these rate increases will continue to increase but for a different reason. In the past, the revenue for any network TV came principally from advertising and they were not getting direct income from the people who were watching that was secondary. People watching the stations help determine the advertising rates that the networks charge. Present day, there has been a huge decline in advertising revenue for the networks. So the networks themselves need to re-evaluate how they do business. An article from the Associated Press was read. This is something that could possibly happen.

Eric – Will we see fewer or no ads?

Suzann - We are already seeing fewer ads because less can pay for the advertising. People can be reached in many different ways, thru different venues.

2. CATS – No Report

3. WTIU – A report was prepared for December, but meeting was cancelled.

4. ITS Dept. – No Report

5. Comcast / AT&T – No Report

V. Old Business

1. Report to City Council

Carl – We need to begin preparing the report for 2009. Is there any member that would oversee this preparation?

Eric – I will help put the report together, with the assistance of the other members.

Suzann – Do you want to make an arrangement for who does what, as far as the content is concerned?

2. EAS – No Report

3. PEG Channels – No Report

4. Council Charter

Carl – We need to state some preferences' concerning what this council believes is our role in 2010. It has been an awkward two years, transitioning from a franchise oversight committee to something else. We need to firm up what our task is.

- What do we want to be involved in?
- What do we want to be responsible for?

Suzann - In our 2008 report to the City Council, we started with the language of the responsibilities.

1. We monitor the local implementation of state wide video service franchise agreements.
2. We evaluate the quality of subscriber's services.
3. Monitor whether companies are operating under the state video service certificate.
4. Study the communication needs of the Bloomington area, and explore the way of using tele-communications in the area to meet the needs of consumers.

Duane – There is upcoming legislation that mentions the possibility of looking into an organization that over see's the state franchise fees being done away with.

Carl – The AT&T proposal

Eric – I don't think it is a formal proposal. I don't think there is any resolution before the legislation. It's just general concern that has been raised.

Suzann – There has been a proposal made by AT&T Corporate that local communities not have any voice in video service providers. We've already lost control of the franchises. Citizen based organizations or boards should not exist. This would sit considerable precedence for all boards. We do need to take advantage of the fact that we have the most informed member of the general assembly, as one of our local legislators, Matt Pierce.

Carl – There is only one way that such a proposal could fly and that is if the only purpose of a local council is to oversee the franchise; then it could be argued that there is no purpose for a local council.

Eric – I thought we had a formal document that we marked up and sent on to ITS and the mayor's office.

Duane – We are also advocates for the access channels as well.

Carl – We have to continue to emphasize that role.

Duane – We need to conduct a survey and see what the telecommunications needs of the community are.

Jesse – We need to be a consumer advocate.

Suzann – Checking the legislation website, as of 1-5-2010. A bill has been introduced and referred to the committee on local government in the Senate by Senator Holdman. The synopsis of the bill is local regulation of the video service franchise, provide that a local unit of government may not monitor, supervise, evaluate, or otherwise regulate a holder of a certificate to provide of video service in Indiana.

Senate Bill 135

The IURC is the sole franchising authority for the provision of video service. A unit may not require a provider to obtain separate franchise, imposing a fee, gross tax receipt, licensing requirement, rate regulation, or bill ad requirement on a holder or provider or monitor, supervise, evaluate otherwise regulate a holder or provider including by establishing a board or other supornate entity monitor supervise, or evaluate.

Eric – Wonder how much that is restatement of AT&T's proposal.

Suzann – Am I correct that we have not had a response that our request for revision of our charter is supposedly is in the hands of the mayor's office or in corporate?

Eric – The charter falls from the ordinance which is something from the city council.

Suzann – I thought that it still had to go thru legal.

Eric – We certainly have the ability to bring this before the city council and promote this discussion, and move it forward.

Suzann – There is one seat available on the IURC board. It is a paid position, not volunteer.

Carl – One of the things I would like to see us pay some attention to is an additional task. We need to open up a discussion in the community about a city sponsored wireless network that people can tap into basically anywhere in the confines of the city and whether or not that is something we can fund or offer the same way do a utility.

Duane – I think that goes hand in hand with the goals of the Bloomington Digital Underground. I think we also ought to look into monitoring the city cell towers. People need to have a group that they can go to and share their frustrations besides the City Council.

5. Re-appointment of Council Members

Carl – In November, we were made aware the 4 members of the council (Jesse, Suzann, Eric, and Carl) terms would be expiring at the end of January 2010. I have been re-appointed by the mayor for another two years. The other three appointments are made by the city council.

Eric – I spoke with the members of the city council. I represented that we would serve until we were not appointed again.

Suzann – When party affiliation plays a consideration, is this a board that is supposed to be bi-partisan?

Duane – No, that has never been a part of the telecommunications council.

6. Election of Officers for 2010

Duane – I motion that we postpone the election of officers for 2010.

Suzann – I second the motion.

Eric – Comment. I was just going to say all of us are most likely going to re-appointed.

Duane – Withdrawal of his motion, along with Suzann's second.

Jesse – I motion that we remain with the status quo.

Carl Zager - President

Jesse Strycker – Vic President

Suzann Owen – Auxiallary

Eric – I second that motion.

All in favor, motion passed.

VI. New Business

Carl – Duane suggested that he would like to discuss with members of the city council our list of proposed and current responsibilities and other interest this council has. Matt Pierce and I have been discussing sitting down with the mayor about this exact thing. The one thing we have not been able to do is be a liaison between this community and the IURC. Matt Pierce and I have a meeting scheduled with the mayor this Friday (1-8) at 3pm. I would like the council's permission to take Eric into this meeting.

Suzann - Please notify us with a summary of the meeting with the mayor before our next meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 2nd, 2010 at 7:30
Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.

Submitted by:

Stephanie Jachim 1-22-2010